

CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER - AGENDA ITEM DATA SHEET

Agenda Item: 2026 Fire Department Contribution

Committee Review: Finance Committee during 2026 budget review meeting on 9/30/2025

Meeting Date: Finance and Council on 10/7/2025

Requested by: Ashley Oliphant, City Administrator

Background:

The Fire Department is managed by a Board of Directors where the City and Rural District hold equal voting power, ensuring joint governance on all decisions. Financially, the agreement mandates the City and Rural District to contribute equally to a shared Department Treasury twice annually to cover the Department's operational expenses, including insurance and major repairs. Separately, the City and the Rural District are individually billed for the response pay associated with emergency calls within their respective service territories. This structure ensures shared liability, ownership, and maintenance of the Department's personnel, equipment, and facilities through jointly managed funding.

The City and members of the Rural District also provide the 2% dues they receive to the Richland Fire Department. The 2% Fire Dues Program is a key funding source, providing revenue to local municipalities with their own fire department or those that contract for fire services. Funded by a 2% levy on fire insurance premiums from the prior year, this revenue supports state and local fire prevention and protection efforts. Municipalities are required to use these funds only for approved purposes like purchasing equipment, funding fire inspection services, public education, and training.

The City's financial contribution has consistently increased to meet the needs of the Fire Department, with contributions and requests outlined as follows:

	Contribution	2% Fire Dues	Total
2021	\$139,654.50	\$13,130.02	\$152,784.52
2022	\$139,654.50	\$13,989.17	\$153,643.67
2023	\$139,654.50	\$15,766.45	\$155,420.95
2024	\$144,523.14	\$17,836.43	\$162,359.57
2025	\$148,159.46	\$19,118.84	\$167,278.30
2026	\$148,159.46	TBD	TBD

The Richland Fire Department requested the same contribution for 2026 as what was provided in 2025, a lump sum of \$148,159.46 and the total received from the 2% Fire Dues Program.

Committee Recommendation: Approve a contribution for 2026 that is the same or less than provided in 2025 and abstain from any separate capital improvement related contributions.

Financial Impact: \$148,159.46

Funding Source: 2026 Fire District Budget, 10-52300-560

Requested Action:

FINANCE: Motion to recommend to the Council to approve the requested 2026 contribution of \$148,159.46 for the operation of the Richland Fire Department.

COUNCIL: Motion to approve the requested 2026 contribution of \$148,159.46 for the operation of the Richland Fire Department.

Attachment(s): 2026 Budget, FAQ 2% Dues, Fire District Budget to Actual Report